



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Lee County Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission  
**DATE:** November 25, 2019  
**RE:** Support for Sports Complex Development Bond Referendum

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Following recent reports and discussions related to the potential future development of a sports complex in Lee County, the Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission (LCPRC) has taken the time to review the Brailsford & Dunleavy Market Analysis and Feasibility Report dated June 30, 2015. Given the information outlined in the report, as well as the LCPRC mission to “administer adequate recreational programs as necessary and in the best interest of the citizens of Lee County,” we would like to encourage the Board to place a bond referendum on the ballot in 2020 in order to fund the development of a Lee County Sports Complex.

The Brailsford & Dunleavy report is based on feedback and data gathered through local focus groups, community surveys, peer benchmarking, local area resource and market analyses, and economic impact modeling; all of which indicate the community’s needs and preferences support the development of a sports complex in Lee County. The study specifically highlights the shortage of quality rectangular fields for soccer, football and lacrosse – all sports growing in popularity amongst our youth. The shortage of fields and quality facilities not only hinders local programming but also impedes area clubs from hosting weekend travel competitions and larger regional and state tournaments.

Additionally, the study was completed in 2015 and the LCPRC believes the needs outlined in the report have grown as the Lee County community has grown. Sports organizations, like the Sanford Area Soccer League, have shared that they are outgrowing the facilities in Lee County. Central Carolina Community College has expressed interest in expanding their sports program to include baseball and soccer teams. Regional teams and programs would also likely be highly interested in utilizing a sports complex in Lee County given our central location and ease of access from across the state.

The study and associated data supports the assertion that the Lee County community favors the development of a sports complex and projected growth in our county and region suggests a sports complex would be more than adequately utilized. Investments in recreational facilities improve the overall quality of life in a community and add to the amenities that tend to attract new residents, businesses and investments.

The cost of a sports complex is a significant investment in our community. The LCPRC is asking the Board to allow the voters to decide. Place a bond referendum for the development of a sports complex on the ballot and allow the citizens of Lee County to use their voice at the ballot box to determine whether a sports complex is an investment they support and want to see in Lee County.